

IUD Petition Filed

SHE'S BACK

FROM USSR

Patsy Fulcher



Intrauterine devices were declared among "the most potentially dangerous devices ever put on the market for use by women" in a petition submitted to the California Department of Public Health last week on behalf of a coalition of women's organizations and individuals adversely affected.

This is the first such petition in the country, it asks for "regulation of dangerous devices presenting a threat to the health and safety of California women."

At a press conference in the San Francisco offices of Equal Rights Advocates, co-counselors with Public Advocates, Inc. for the petitioners, Patsy G. Fulcher, Chairwoman of the coalition and representing NOW and BWOA, stated that, "Women are tired of being used as guinea pigs for untested medical devices sold at an enormous profit by large drug companies. It is simply not acceptable for such companies to spend million of dollars on advertising, packing and promotion and not to put the necessary money into research to see that women are not exploited."

The state of the law is such as to leave the IUD's virtually unregulated. They have been invented to make money, not to provide the health care needed by women.

The petition gives the State of California 30 days in which to agree or deny in which case "other action may be taken."

CARLETTA JACKSON, a very together young sister of BWOA, crossed over to check out the other side. Carletta was one of 60 participants in the Third Annual America-Soviet Young Peoples Conference held in the northern Soviet republic of Azerbaidzhan.

Although the American delegation was suppose to be an amalgam of political interests and ethnic groups from around the country, Ms. Jackson reports that there were ten Blacks, one native American and the rest were white.

Most of the conference time was spent taking guided tours of factories, chemical plants, schools and clinics, but brief side trips were taken to Moscow and Leningrad.

"We saw lots of young people participating in planning factory work."

Azerbaidzhan youth proved pretty knowledgeable about American culture. They liked Jimi Hendrix, and Chicago; the local museum also contained memorabilia of Angela Davis.

Although the object of the conference was to encourage world youth to work toward international peace and detente, many "political differences" were obvious. Communications repeatedly broke down with discussions about Solzhenitsyn, freedom of speech and the People's Republic of China.

"The Soviet youth seemed to share a common goal, but our delegation reflected all the political differences going on in this country. We had lots of arguments within our groups about what socialism would be like in this country."

Ms. Jackson thinks it would be interesting to be an exchange student in the U.S.S.R., but is more excited about what is happening politically in this country and her eventual plans for law school.



The following is a letter from Joanne Little to Georgia Senator Julian Bond, President of the Southern Poverty Law Center (while her trial was in process).

July 28, 1975

Dear Mr. Bond: I'm not too good at expressing my feelings...so I use the next best thing -- write. I really appreciate all the help that your law firm (Southern Poverty) has given me in past months. If it had not been for you and the dedicated work of your people --- concerned citizens around the country. As I sit here today and watch the people that fill the courtroom -- I can feel the love and decency trying to seep through the "filth and scum" of this earth.. I have to be strong -- I've come this far and through the worst whenever I feel that I am being treaded on I will fix my eyes on some warm being and loving person. Through these last days I found certain things within myself that I thought I never had. This is finding "inner peace" within oneself.

So again, Mr. Bond, I feel compelled to stress the importance of your presence and again I will say, thank you for your help. I will never be able to repay the kind of support and concern I've received in the past months.

Sincerely /s/ Joanne Little

Since her trial, Ms. Little has spent her time relaxing, occasionally lecturing about her ordeal, and wondering about her future.

Her legal troubles are not over. She remains free on \$15,000 bond while her attorneys appeal a breaking and entering conviction which landed her in the Beaufort County jail to begin with. The North Carolina Court of Appeals has set September 23 as the date for arguments in that appeal. Normally, the court rules a month to two months after hearing oral arguments.

Joanne Little